

Belgian Congo

Plane Trip/Costermansville to Leopoldville

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1. " [redacted] from Costermansville south to Usu. [redacted] got a splendid view of the Kamaniola Escarpment and of the Ruzizi Plain of the Rift Valley north of Lake Tanganyika. The plain looked as though it were more or less ideal for irrigation schemes, and such schemes are planned after soil and engineering studies have been completed. 25X1X
2. "The airport at Usu is excellent. [redacted] took on a lot of petrol there, presumably because it would save sending it up to Costermansville which is expensive. [redacted] flew south over Lake Tanganyika to gain altitude before crossing the mountains to the west of the Rift Valley. These were fairly heavily forested on the west. Then we flew alternately over wooded slopes and areas where the summits were in grass, but the valleys in forest. 25X1X
3. " [redacted] crossed to Lualaba or Upper Congo, and it is now becoming very flat with large stretches of grass and scattered trees, with all the stream courses clearly indicated by a string of dense vegetation along their banks. Most of this country seems to be sparsely populated. A few miles before [redacted] landed at Lualabourg, the countryside became much more wooded, a real savannah, bordering on rainforest. The natives were hacking away at the forest, and it was obvious that much would not be reforested since fire is apparently used as a powerful controlling agent. 25X1A
4. "The Lualabourg airport is a very good one, and the accompanying facilities much better than [redacted] in other airports at which we have landed. It is the capital of the province of Kasai, which produces about 80 percent of the world's industrial diamonds. Also produced here are some cotton, palm oil, peanuts, palm nuts and food crops such as rice and corn."

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